

## United States Senate

December 30, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

I am writing to urge you to support the renewal of the 2007 U.S.-Cyprus Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that restricts the illicit trade of archeological and religious artifacts. As you know, the MoU is scheduled to expire in July 2012.

Since 1974, the Republic of Cyprus has faced ongoing threats to its cultural and religious heritage – pillaging and trafficking of archaeological treasures that endures today. The United States should continue its strong support for tools that curtail activities, such as illegal excavations, unauthorized possession of antiquities, arbitrary interventions, and neglect of cultural heritage.

While the Turkish occupation and division of the island continues unabated, we should assist our Cypriot allies in protecting their rich culture and history. The 2007 MoU proved to be an important contribution to such efforts and I urge its renewal.

Sincerely,



Mark Kirk  
United States Senator